


WE CLAIM:

1. A method comprising:
a computer system creating a first storage object, wherein the first storage object is created to have a property;
the computer system creating a second storage object out of the first storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the property of the first storage object;
the computer system modifying the first storage object, wherein the modified first storage object maintains the property upon which the second storage object depends.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system creating a third storage object, wherein the third storage object is created to have a property;
wherein the computer system creates the second storage object out of the first and third storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the properties of the first and third storage objects.
3. The method of claim 1:
wherein creating the first storage object comprises creating a first description of the first storage object
transmitting all or a portion of the first description to a first computer system;
wherein creating the second storage object comprises creating a second description of the first storage object;
transmitting all or a portion of the second description to a second computer system.
4. The method of claim 3:
wherein modifying the first storage object comprises creating a modified first description of the modified first storage object;
transmitting the modified first description to the first computer system.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the second description comprises a configuration map that maps a logical memory block of the second storage object to a logical memory block of the first storage object.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein creating the first storage object comprises allocating a logical unit (LUN) or a physical storage device of a data storage subsystem to the first storage object.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the first description comprises a configuration map that maps a logical memory block of the first storage object to a logical memory block of the LUN or to a physical memory block of the physical storage device.

8. A method comprising: 
a computer system creating one or more first storage objects, wherein the one or more first storage objects are created to have individual or collective properties;
the computer system creating a second storage object out of the one or more first storage objects, wherein the second storage object depends on the individual or collective properties of the one or more first storage objects;
the computer system receiving information that the property of a storage object of the one or more first storage objects has changed and that the second storage object can no longer depend on the individual or collective properties of the one or more first storage objects;
the computer system responding after receiving the information.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the computer responding comprises generating a message indicating that warning that that the second storage object can no longer depend on the individual or collective properties of the one or more first storage objects.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the computer responding comprises replacing the storage object with a new storage object

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the computer responding comprises modifying the storage object.

12. A computer readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer system, wherein the computer system implements a method in response to executing the instructions, the method comprising:

creating a first storage object, wherein the first storage object is created to have a property;
creating a second storage object out of the first storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the property of the first storage object;
modifying the first storage object, wherein the modified first storage object maintains the property upon which the second storage object depends.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein the method further comprises:

creating a third storage object, wherein the third storage object is created to have a property;
wherein the second storage object is created out of the first and third storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the properties of the first and second storage objects.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 12:
wherein creating the first storage object comprises creating a first description of the first storage object;
wherein creating the second storage object comprises creating a second description of the first storage object, and wherein the method further comprises:
transmitting all or a portion of the first description to a first computer system;
transmitting all or a portion of the second description to a second computer system.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14:
wherein modifying the first storage object comprises creating a modified first description of the modified first storage object, and wherein the method further comprises:
transmitting the modified first description to the first computer system.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 14 wherein the second description comprises a configuration map that maps a logical memory block of the second storage object to a logical memory block of the first storage object.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein creating the first storage object comprises allocating a logical unit (LUN) or a physical storage device of a data storage subsystem to the first storage object.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the first description comprises a configuration map that maps a logical memory block of the first storage object to a logical memory block of the LUN or to a physical memory block of the physical storage device.

19. A computer readable medium storing instructions executable by a computer system, wherein the computer system implements a method in response to executing the instructions, the method comprising:

creating a plurality of first storage objects, wherein the plurality of first storage objects are created to have individual or collective properties;

creating a second storage object out of the plurality of first storage objects, wherein the second storage object depends on the individual or collective properties of the plurality of first storage objects;

modifying one or more of the plurality of first storage objects, wherein the modified storage objects maintain the individual or collective properties upon which the second storage object depends.

20. A data system comprising:

a computer system in data communication with first and second computer systems, wherein the computer system comprises an instruction memory that stores instructions executable by the computer system, wherein the computer system implements a method in response to executing the instructions, the method comprising:

creating a first storage object, wherein the first storage object is created to have a property;

creating a second storage object out of the first storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the property of the first storage object;

modifying the first storage object, wherein the modified first storage object maintains the property upon which the second storage object depends..

21. A data system comprising:

means for creating a first storage object, wherein the first storage object is created to have a property;

means for creating a second storage object out of the first storage object, wherein the second storage object depends on the property of the first storage object;

means for modifying the first storage object, wherein the modified first storage object maintains the property upon which the second storage object depends.